



St. Louis District Office

2006 Small Business Week Award Winners

Hall of Fame Inductee

Maxine Clark, Founder and Chief Executive Bear

Build-A-Bear Workshop

SBA Small Business Investment Company funds provided a portion of the early critical financing for Ms. Clark and Build-A-Bear Workshop. Build-A-Bear Workshop started in 1997 at the Saint Louis Galleria and today has more than 6,350 employees. At the end of 2005, there were over 200 places for furry fun worldwide including the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, Denmark, France, Japan, Korea, Sweden, Netherlands and Taiwan.

Small Business Person of the Year – St. Louis District Winner

Suzanne Magee Joyce

President and CEO

Andrea Johnson

Chief Operating Officer

TechGuard Security

The mission of TechGuard Security is to create proactive countermeasures to malicious network attacks through deployment of a neutral net firewall using TechGuard's now patented artificial intelligence technology in conjunction with industry leading services.

Financial Services Champion – St. Louis District Winner

Robert Calcaterra, CEO and President

Nidus Center for Scientific Enterprise

Robert Calcaterra has nurtured more than 50 companies by developing viable business models, enhancing their management teams, and developing a strong intellectual property portfolio. He has assisted these companies in raising approximately \$250 million in investment capital and over \$100 million of that has been her in St. Louis during the last six years. He works with banks, investment firms, and angel investors and encouraged venture capitalist to take more risk in early stage companies.

Home-Based Business Champion – Region VII Winner

Angela Lieb, President

Xpress Office Center

Xpress Office Center is a private business club for the home-based and mobile worker; a place where you can get work done, but also make connections with other business people. While you are there, you will be able to use the wireless internet, get some coffee or soda, print copy, fax, pick up and drop off mail, and host a meeting or workshop in one of the private meeting rooms.

Minority Small Business Champion – Region VII Winner

***Brian Montgomery, Minority Business Development Executive
Ameren***

Brian has more than doubled Ameren's spending on minority contractors. In the three years he has worked in his position, Brian has been part of a team that has helped to more than triple Ameren's annual contractor spending. Working in an industry where change comes slowly, Brian makes it his job to take the right chances and create opportunities for minority businesses.

Small Business Exporter – St. Louis District Winner

***John Zisser, Jr., President
Zisser Tire Company***

Zisser Tire Company is a wholesaler of high performance tires and accessories. The company started in 1984 as a retail outlet. In 1994, Zisser Tire became a stockholder in Delta-National, the nation's largest independent tire-buying group, which enabled Zisser Tire to become a local wholesale distributor.

SBA Young Entrepreneur – St. Louis District Winner

***Margaret Laughlin Honerkamp
Laughlin Promotions***

Created in 2000, Laughlin Promotions is a women-owned and run company that provides promotional products to corporations, schools, sporting teams and non-profit organizations. Laughlin Promotions can supply any type of product that a logo can be placed on.

Small Business Journalist – Region VII Winner

***Shera Dalin, Co-Owner
CarisMedia, Inc.***

Shera Dalin left the St. Louis Post-Dispatch to work in CarisMedia which she co-owns with Jorge Riopedre. She is still committed to small business. She is now writing about small business for large magazines like *Latina* for a national audience.

Women in Business Champion – Region VII Winner

***Maryanne Preston, President
Hiring Solutions***

Maryanne Preston is president of Hiring Solutions, a consulting firm, and founder of eWomen Network chapters in St. Louis and St. Charles, Mo., Chicago, Ill., and Detroit, Mich. E-Women Networks is the largest membership-based professional women's marketing and networking organization in North America.

Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Small Business – St. Louis District Winner

***John Tipton, President
Da-Com Corporation***

Dan-Com is a premier provider of office products and solutions in the St. Louis, southern Illinois, and mid-Missouri areas. Now in their 57th year, Da-Com specializes in multi-functional office products that copy, print, fax, and scan and design/build computer networks.